

**Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Programs & Policies Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, January 23, 2023**

Members present: Austin Holik, Aundrea Curtis, Andrew Frenz, Neal Baxter, Peter Vader; Kadence Novak, Emma Pachuta

Staff: Andrew Degerstrom

Chair Austin Holik called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

Traffic Signals and Pedestrians—Ben Brasser & Ryan Anderson, Public Works

Ryan & Ben gave us a thorough look at what Public Works is planning to do about making crossing busy intersections easier and safer for pedestrians. The background for this effort includes the Vision Zero Action Plan and the Transportation Action Plan. These plans commit the City to pedestrian safety, a reliable transit network and access for all residents. The decision to cut the standard city speed limit to 20 MPH was also meant to help pedestrians.

In 2025, the City will re-time traffic signals throughout Minneapolis. To prepare, Public Works will examine traffic volumes and pedestrian needs in 2024.

Public Works has determined to program traffic signals in several neighborhoods with leading pedestrian interval (LPI). LPI is a 4-second lead for pedestrians to begin crossing the street before vehicular traffic is allowed to proceed. The intersections at Hennepin and Lagoon & Lake Street have had LPI for several years. LPI is a proved safety measure, giving pedestrians a strong presence in traffic, and is especially useful in making pedestrians more visible to drivers intending to turn left.

The City is drawing up a comprehensive approach to implementing LPI. Considerations include how LPI works with accessible pedestrian signals and left-turn arrows, the needs of transit, and, of course, how to time the signal.

In 2023, 30 intersections on major thoroughfares will have LPI added to the signal. These will be crossings that need Vision Zero upgrades. The City has a choice of two treatments: an automatic LPI during each cycle, or LPI which is activated by pushing a button. The next step is to analyze how LPI works with accessible pedestrian signals.

Another consideration for the re-timing is pedestrian recall. Soon after the COVID outbreak began, Public Works set all traffic signals in the city to pedestrian recall, so no one could spread the disease by pushing the WALK signal. Signals will be returned to their pre-COVID actuation where transit priority is important. Other signals will get a faster response time when the button is pushed. A combined recall/LPI re-timing strategy will be developed at still other intersections.

Discussion followed the presentation. A question about using cameras to enforce traffic laws brought the response that these are not on the agenda for now, but staff is keeping track of legislative action that would allow the City to use them.

When asked about pedestrian scrambles, which allow pedestrians at all corners of an intersection to proceed before vehicle traffic, our presenters said the scramble needs more technical changes. However, for those who want to see it work, go to Richfield Road & William Berry Road, south of Bde Mka Ska.

Discussion of a Resolution about Traffic Signals

We talked a little about the resolution, and Peter and Austin agreed to draft one for consideration at the February PAC meeting.

Winter Maintenance Resolution

This resolution is a response to the presentation about the update of the Winter Maintenance Study. To give us perspective, Kadence told us about Montreal's snow removal budget, which is enormous. Winnipeg, too, decided to attack snow removal hard, in 2018. The city has 4000 miles of sidewalks, compared with the 2000 miles in Minneapolis. Winnipeg allocated \$40 million to pay for clearing all sidewalks and streets. They now have a \$50 million deficit, and no one wants to have anything to do with the program. So we have a lot of difficult choices ahead.

Kadence also mentioned that the 311 office needs to hire 2 more staff, and she mentioned the youth sidewalk shoveling program that Bancroft Neighborhood Association has paid for this winter and last. It's a big success.

Adjourned at 6:05 PM.